

FACT SHEET

REINDUSTRIALIZATION: AT WORK IN OAK RIDGE

Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background and Challenges

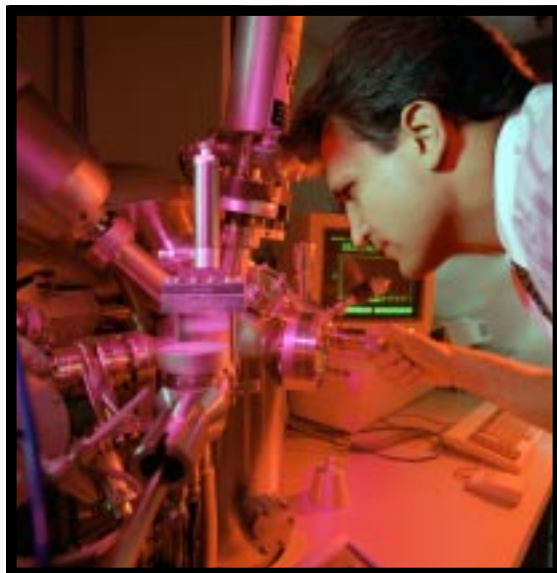
The K-25 site located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee was built in the 1940's to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. In late 1987, the Department of Energy (DOE) shutdown the K-25 site as its mission ended. Ten years later in 1997, the K-25 site was renamed the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) to reflect its new mission of reindustrialization. The people, tools, and technologies that contributed to the Cold War and environmental cleanup efforts of the K-25 site are now leading the transition of ETTP to a commercial industrial park. By taking advantage of the assets at ETTP, private companies are helping to ensure the success of their businesses and the long-term economic health of the Oak Ridge community.

The Path to Progress

The Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) is a non-profit organization, funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), that works to help ease the impacts of federal budget cutbacks. CROET recruits businesses to ETTP to employ the highly-skilled work force, and reuse the wide range of industrial and office facilities, and valuable equipment for companies leasing space at ETTP.

CROET's mission is to create quality jobs for workers displaced by work force reductions and businesses locating at ETTP must meet certain job creation criteria. All locating companies are required to give hiring preference to displaced workers, and companies that create large numbers of well-paying jobs are granted reduced lease rates. The types of companies leasing the ETTP's space include scientific laboratories, Internet commerce enterprises, logistics companies, and metal fabrication and tooling shops.

Leasing facilities at ETTP has created over 200 jobs since 1996. Reindustrialization also involves innovative programs such as trading cleanup services for favorable lease terms, an arrangement that saves millions of taxpayer dollars while accelerating the environmental restoration time period.



A company formed by displaced workers, Materials and Chemistry Laboratory, offers advanced materials sciences capabilities. Here, an employee analyzes materials using an electron microscope.



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Leasing Success Stories

Operations Management International (OMI) is managing, operating, maintaining and rehabilitating utilities systems and infrastructure at the ETTP. In assuming the contract, OMI offered employment to all DOE contractor workers who had been performing these activities.

East Tennessee Materials and Energy Corporation (M&EC) will employ up to 200 workers over the next five years at its new radioactive waste treatment center, drawing from a local work force that is expert in the safe handling, processing, transportation, and disposal of hazardous and radioactive materials. In exchange for favorable lease terms and commercial use of one of the buildings at ETTP, M&EC is performing decontamination and decommissioning of the building and removing all security classification concerns.

Materials and Chemistry Laboratory (MCL) was formed by a group of displaced workers who founded a corporation and leased a laboratory and its contents, including five electron microscopes. MCL is performing cleanup in its facility, removing radioactively contaminated laboratory hoods in exchange for reduced lease payments. MCL has recently been added to the Midwest Research Institute family of businesses.

Dienamic Tooling Systems (DTS), a tool-and-die maker that supplies the automotive industry, is providing jobs for machinists and other skilled employees. DTS moved into space that was cleaned up using funds from an advance lease payment made by another ETTP tenant.

Machine Kinetics builds high-precision industrial equipment and machinery at ETTP reusing heavy-duty equipment that was left unused and in place following closure of the former DOE machine shop.

PCC Enterprises (PCCE) is using a classified process developed at ETTP to produce an unclassified product – high-tech inorganic membranes for use in liquid and gaseous separation devices. PCCE products and operations are expected to have a major impact on the marketplace and employment opportunities for Oak Ridge residents.



Machine Kinetics, an engineering and manufacturing company, uses equipment from the former ETTP machine shop to build custom machinery and equipment, such as this glovebox.

Contact Information

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